

SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Silvia Stubbs Lori Maughan Jamie Harvey Mack McDonald

Chairman Vice-Chair Commissioner Administrator

Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity Utah Broadband Center 60 East South Temple Suite 300 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-1004

May 15, 2025

RE: Digital Opportunity Grant

To Whom It May Concern-

On behalf of the San Juan County Commission, I am pleased to submit this letter in strong support of San Juan County's application for the Digital Access and Opportunity Grant. This initiative aligns with our General Plan to enhance broadband connectivity and expand internet access across the county; a priority driven by the expressed needs of our residents and deems this service as a primary infrastructure.

Improved internet connectivity is essential to addressing the digital divide in San Juan County. The proposed project will not only expand access to high-speed internet, including fiber-optic infrastructure, but also establish comprehensive digital literacy training programs. These programs will equip our citizens with the skills to safely navigate the internet, avoid potential risks, and leverage online resources for education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. By fostering digital inclusion, this grant will support remote work, advanced education, and economic mobility, directly contributing to the goals outlined in our County General Plan.

To ensure the success of this initiative, San Juan County will collaborate with local nonprofit organizations to develop and deliver training programs tailored to our diverse communities, including the Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Southern San Juan Band of Paiutes. These programs will be offered in Navajo at our local Chapter Houses, bringing accessible, culturally sensitive training directly to residents. Interpreters will be available to facilitate effective communication and engagement.

The Digital Access and Opportunity Grant will be transformative for San Juan County, promoting equitable access to technology and supporting our vision for a connected, prosperous future. We fully endorse this application and respectfully urge you to fund it in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Silvia Stubbs
San Juan County Commission Chair